

Supervisor Romaine Releases Air Quality Monitoring Data Regarding the Burning of Sandy Debris at Landfill

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Preliminary analysis indicates no immediate danger to resident's health and safety

Farmingville, NY - On December 18, Supervisor Ed Romaine received initial data facilitated by the placement of air quality monitoring equipment placed at various sites in and around the Brookhaven Landfill to measure the affects of using Air Curtain Destructors to burn the massive amount of vegetative debris collected in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. The monitoring equipment, which conforms to the specifications of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, was provided by P.W. Grosser Consulting, the firm hired by Suffolk County after the Supervisor sent a letter to Joe Williams, Commissioner of Suffolk County Fire Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES). In his letter to the Commissioner, Supervisor Romaine voiced his concerns about the air quality around the landfill and called on the County to provide monitoring and analysis of the data collected. He also asked for assurance that the burners did not pose a danger to the health and safety of residents who live nearby and pledged that the burners would be immediately removed if they were found to have a detrimental impact on air quality. Preliminary analysis has indicated that there is no immediate danger to the health and safety of those who live near the landfill.

Upon review of the data and preliminary analysis, Supervisor Romaine said, "It's clear that the people who live near the landfill have been burdened for many years, but I can assure them that their concerns about air quality are not falling on deaf ears. The results so far have indicated that there is no immediate danger, nevertheless, I will continue to monitor the data to make sure that the health and safety of the residents is not compromised." He continued, "Let me say in no uncertain terms that I will pull the plug on the operation and remove the burners at a moments notice if it is deemed unsafe."

On December 15, 16 and 17, air samples were collected with a Dust Track Aerosol Monitor located at the southeast corner of the landfill complex and southeast of the burners. Based on the data collected, the 24-hour time weighted average (TWA) readings ranged from 2.7 to 26.8 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The federal short-term (24-hour) health based standard for Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns is 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Therefore, the measured ambient air concentrations were all below the applicable standard.

On December 17, at approximately 9:00 am, a 24-hour monitoring period commenced to collect air samples at the Brookhaven Fire Department. Data shows that the 24-hour average reading is 13.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ which is also below the applicable standard.

In addition to the Dust Track Aerosol Monitors being used, the County has commenced operation of two E-BAMS continuous air-monitoring units. One unit was installed at the landfill complex to the southeast of the landfill and southeast of the Air Curtain Destructors. The other unit was installed on the roof of the Brookhaven Fire Department. The Town is awaiting the initial monitoring results from these units as well as a more detailed analysis of all the results from Suffolk County.

"We will continue receiving monitoring reports from the County and as we do, we will release this data to the general public and media. Should the results indicate a health risk, as I have said previously, the Town will immediately stop using the air curtain boxes," stated Supervisor Romaine.

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